

## Operation Devil Clinch nets insurgents, weapons

By Staff Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – During a midnight raid Feb. 21, more than 250 paratroopers from the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, went out and got exactly what they came for – bad guys and things that bad guys have that they aren't suppose to have.

Rocket-propelled grenade launchers, mortar sights, improvised explosive device making materials and more than \$23,000 in U.S. and Iraqi currency were seized during "Operation Devil Clinch."

Assigned to the 1st Armored Division Artillery Combat Team in southern Baghdad's Al Rashid District, the paratroopers simultaneously raided six targets catching the suspected insurgents.

At mission's end, six suspected insurgents and their tools of the trade were taken off the streets. Their weapons will be destroyed.

DIVARTY leaders said Operation Devil Clinch was one of the unit's most successful operations since the task force took responsibility for the district less than a month ago.

"The paratroopers are disciplined, aggressive and highly-motivated," said Maj. Scott Bisciotti, DCT operations officer. "You can see that in every member of the battalion. The success of this most recent mission is attributed to their dedication and ability to deliver accurate intelligence and a refined targeting process."

Bisciotti said the paratroopers were able to perform precision operations because they used sophisticated intelligence targeting techniques.

"They have great leaders and initiative," he said. "They were extremely creative in capturing the enemy off guard. That's why they came back with what they went out to get."

Passing an occasional onlooker and with the distant sound of barking dogs in the background, the paratroopers arrived at their objectives confident they found what they came looking for: six suspected terrorists.

Silently, the paratroopers dismounted their vehicles and hid behind trees, walls and anything else to keep them shielded from possible automatic gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Using small tactical radios to communicate among squads and infrared lasers mounted on their M-4 weapons pointed toward the objectives, the paratroopers gained the tactical advantage thanks to their previous day's reconnaissance of the area.

Each paratrooper silently moved into position before the "green light" was given to strike.

"Our intelligence reports were solid," said Maj. Pet Minalga.

Continuing operations, increased patrols and searches throws the enemy's instinct off, Minalga said.

"We are disrupting their communications, coordination and execution of their attacks," he said.

Surprise was the key element of success for this mission, he said.



**A paratrooper from 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Division Artillery Combat Team, 1st Armored Division stands ready with a 50-caliber machinegun during "Operation Devil Clinch."**

Spc. Brad Roche, a rifleman with C Company, 2-504th, said catching the enemy off guard reduces the chances of a hostile reaction to the raid.

"They can't get to their weapons and that's definitely a good thing," he said. "If they are sleeping when we kick down the doors, they have no chance of reacting."

Roche has spent his military career deployed. Previously serving in Afghanistan and now Iraq, Roche's intense training and combat experience prepared him for this mission, he said.

Using good intelligence reports, the "White Devils" were able to capitalize on the moment and gain the edge over the insurgents.

The captured suspects were interrogated by the military intelligence Soldiers and Iraqi translators.

"Who better to understand the Iraqi people than the Iraqi people themselves," Minalga asked. "They truly understand the cultural and environment we are operating here. We'd be stupid not to use them."

With the detainees loaded onto trucks, paratroopers all accounted for and the illegal weapons cataloged and out of the hands of terrorists, the task force quickly slipped back into the nighttime darkness.

There was more work to be done back at Forward Operating Base Steel Falcon before the paratroopers concluded the night's mission. Captured weapons and money were counted and recounted. The detainees were interviewed and the post-operational paperwork completed.

The paratroopers returned to their base knowing their extra preparation and effort paid off in a successful operation.

"It's a great thing we are doing here," said Roche. "We are actually making a difference and doing something to make people's lives better."

# *The Old Ironsides Report* February 24, 2004

## **NEWS...**

### **U.N.: Iraq Election Possible by Late 2004**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Elections for a new Iraqi government would be possible by the end of 2004 if preparations begin immediately, a United Nations envoy said in a report released Monday. Lakhdar Brahimi said there is broad consensus for a provisional government to be formed by June 30.

But he also said the preferred U.S. option - for a system of regional caucuses to elect the government - "does not appear to enjoy sufficient support among Iraqis to be a viable option any longer."

### **Iran Hard-Liners Win Parliament Control**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Conservatives formally reclaimed control of Iran's parliament Monday after disputed elections that were boycotted by reformists who called the vote a "historical fiasco" that denied citizens a free choice.

Candidates considered loyal to Iran's Islamic rulers took at least 149 places in the 290-seat parliament, which has been controlled by pro-reform lawmakers since their landslide win four years ago.

### **Marines to Protect U.S. Embassy in Haiti**

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (AP) - Fifty U.S. Marines were headed to Haiti on Monday to protect the American Embassy and diplomats after rebels overran Haiti's second-largest city and began detaining supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Marines were requested after rebels threatened to attack the capital, Port-au-Prince, soon.

### **Army to End Comanche Helicopter Program**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Army has decided to cancel its Comanche helicopter program, a multibillion-dollar project to build a new-generation chopper for armed reconnaissance missions, officials said Monday. The contractors for Comanche are Boeing Co. and Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.

### **Nader: I'll Be More Effective Vs. Bush**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Ralph Nader said Monday he won't back off from his latest campaign for the White House even if the major candidates are tied in polls going in to Election Day, a scenario that led many friends and former supporters to urge him not to run again.

A possible repeat of the 2000 election, which ended with George W. Bush defeating Al Gore by razor-thin margins in states where Nader polled thousands of votes, did not deter the consumer advocate from declaring his candidacy Sunday. He suggested a close race might be more detrimental to the president than the Democratic nominee.

## ***Thought for the day...***

### **Give Your Best**

Don't be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Ever time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones tend to take care of themselves.

--Dale Carnegie

## **Entertainment...**

### **Carrie Ends Up With Big in' Sex' Finale**

By FRAZIER MOORE, AP Television Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) -- It took them six years to realize it, but Carrie Bradshaw and Mr. Big were meant for each other.

Many fans knew that all along, of course, despite numerous other men Carrie dated during the romantic, raunchy run of "Sex and the City."

So Sunday's finale was an answered prayer for viewers who, as the big day approached, had rooted for Carrie to choose Big over Aleksandr, the self-involved artist who enticed her to leave her beloved New York and move with him to Paris.

After almost 100 installments, this top-secret, much-hyped conclusion made good on its pledge to resolve the love life of New York sex columnist Carrie. Played by series star Sarah Jessica Parker, she returned to Manhattan with Big (Chris Noth), the on-again/off-again businessman beau with whom she first struck sparks on the HBO series' premiere.

With "Sex" the first of three long-running comedies (along with "Friends" and "Frasier" on NBC) coming to an end to this season, its finale set a standard theirs will be hard-pressed to attain.

Meanwhile, it nicely tied up some loose ends concerning Carrie's three gal pals:

- Miranda, the hard-nosed realist played by Cynthia Nixon, remained a happy mother and the wife of bartender Steve, living in Brooklyn (where she opened her heart, and home, to Steve's ailing mother, inviting her to come live with them).

- Charlotte, the idealist (Kristin Davis) and her husband, Harry (formerly her divorce lawyer), got their wish after many disappointments: They'll be adopting a baby girl from China.

- And hot-blooded Samantha (Kim Cattrall) was solid with her boy-toy hunk, Smith, despite the loss of her sex drive from her successful treatment for breast cancer. In a tender exchange, he declared his love for her and she tearfully replied, "You've meant more to me than any man I've ever known."

Glorifying Manhattan, shopping and relationships, the series, which premiered in June 1998, was based on real-life sex columnist Candace Bushnell and created by Darren Star, then best known for concocting the Fox soap "Melrose Place."

It became a cultural phenomenon, defining a new breed of modern woman who wasn't afraid to talk about men - and her desire for them - with raw honesty, even as she gave top priority to her friendships with other women. (The show's four leading ladies graced a Time magazine cover that asked the question "Who Needs a Husband?")

But as Sunday's end neared, accompanied by eulogies for the series that soon would be over, a contradictory message was gaining strength: Maybe this isn't the end, after all.

Turns out the series' top executive, Michael Patrick King, and the show's cast are in discussions with HBO about a movie that would continue the saga, a network spokeswoman confirmed.

But in addressing the question two weeks ago, co-producer Parker waffled like a politician on the stump.

"I haven't made any decisions about how we might revisit this show and in what medium," she said, citing several projects that might keep her busy for the immediate future.

"It's very important to me that we are dignified and graceful in our exit from the (current) series," she added. "After that, if we hear a cry from the public, I think we have to respond to that, if we can do right by them."

So maybe more "Sex and the City" lies ahead. But until then, at least, the ladies are living happily ever after.

# *The Old Ironsides Report* February 24, 2004

## *Today in History...*

### **February 24, 1968: TET OFFENSIVE HALTED:**

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On February 24, 1968, the Tet Offensive ends as U.S. and South Vietnamese troops recapture the ancient capital of Huý from communist forces. Although scattered fighting continued across South Vietnam for another week, the battle for Huý was the last major engagement of the offensive, which saw communist attacks on all of South Vietnam's major cities. In the aftermath of Tet, public opinion in the United States decisively turned against the Vietnam War.

As 1968 began--the third year of U.S. ground-troop fighting in Vietnam--U.S. military leadership was still confident that a favorable peace agreement would soon be forced on the North Vietnamese and their allies in South Vietnam, the Viet Cong. Despite growing calls at home for an immediate U.S. withdrawal, President Lyndon Johnson's administration planned to keep the pressure on the communists through increased bombing and other attrition strategies. General William Westmoreland, commander of U.S. operations in Vietnam, claimed to see clearly "the light at the end of the tunnel," and Johnson hoped that soon the shell-shocked communists would stumble out of the jungle to the bargaining table.

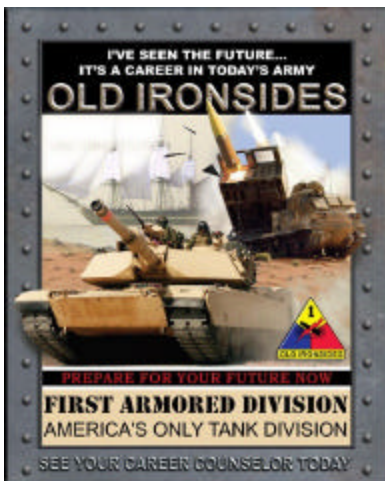
However, on January 30, 1968, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese launched their massive Tet Offensive all across South Vietnam. It was the first day of Tet--Vietnam's lunar new year and most important holiday--and many South Vietnamese soldiers, expecting an unofficial truce, had gone home. The Viet Cong were known for guerrilla tactics and had never launched an offensive on this scale; consequently, U.S. and South Vietnamese forces were caught completely by surprise.

In the first day of the offensive, tens of thousands of Viet Cong soldiers, supported by North Vietnamese forces, overran the five largest cities of South Vietnam, scores of smaller cities and towns, and a number of U.S. and South Vietnamese bases. The Viet Cong struck at Saigon--South Vietnam's capital--and even attacked, and for several hours held, the U.S. embassy there. The action was caught by U.S. television news crews, which also recorded the brutal impromptu street execution of a Viet Cong rebel by a South Vietnamese military official.

As the U.S. and South Vietnamese fought to regain control of Saigon, the cities of Huý, Dalat, Kontum, and Quangtri fell to the communists. U.S. and South Vietnamese forces recaptured most of these cities within a few days, but Huý was fiercely contested by the communist soldiers occupying it. After 26 days of costly house-to-house fighting, the South Vietnamese flag was raised again above Huý on February 24, and the Tet Offensive came to an end. During the communist occupation of Huý, numerous South Vietnamese government officials and civilians were massacred, and many civilians died in U.S. bombing attacks that preceded the liberation of the city.

In many respects, the Tet Offensive was a military disaster for the communists: They suffered 10 times more casualties than their enemy and failed to control any of the areas captured in the opening days of the offensive. They had hoped that the offensive would ignite a popular uprising against South Vietnam's government and the presence of U.S. troops. This did not occur. In addition, the Viet Cong, which had come out into the open for the first time in the war, were all but wiped out. However, because the Tet Offensive crushed U.S. hopes for an imminent end to the conflict, it dealt a fatal blow to the U.S. military mission in Vietnam.

In Tet's aftermath, President Johnson came under fire on all sides for his Vietnam policy. General Westmoreland requested 200,000 more troops to overwhelm the communists, and a national uproar ensued after this request was disclosed, forcing Johnson to recall Westmoreland to Washington. On March 31, Johnson announced that the United States would begin de-escalation in Vietnam, halt the bombing of North Vietnam, and seek a peace agreement to end the conflict. In the same speech, he also announced that he would not seek reelection to the presidency, citing what he perceived to be his responsibility in creating the national division over Vietnam.



### **Reenlistment bonus available until soldiers depart theater**

Currently, more than 1,400 soldiers have taken advantage of the deployed force reenlistment bonus since October. Soldiers must understand the bonus is no longer available once they redeploy to their home station.

The most frequently asked question from soldiers is "how long am I eligible for the reenlistment bonus?"

The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

As we begin to redeploy, our Career Counselors and key retention personnel will become much less accessible as they will be spread thin throughout Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany.

Soldiers eligible for this incentive are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity well in advance of their expected redeployment date. Soldiers should contact their Career Counselors who are standing by to assist our Iron Soldiers in continuing to serve proudly and "Stay Army."

For more information, contact your career counselor.

# The Old Ironsides Report

February 24, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2004				As of: Monday, February 23, 2004 8:33:00 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	MONSTER GARAGE : - NU-SHAKER	TODAY		00:00
00:30	THE HOT LIST	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		RIO LOBO		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	BOWLING - PBA DAYS INN OPEN	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: VILLANOVA @ SYRACUSE	ROCKET POWER : - BRUISED MAN'S CURVE/ POOL'S OUT FOREVER	DRAGON TALES : - ON THIN ICE/ THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - DEAD PUTTING SOCIETY	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	MSNBC	04:00
04:30	NHRA AUTO RACING - K&N FILTERS WINTERNAIONALS: FINAL ROUND		THE COSBY SHOW : - DENISE'S FRIEND			04:30
05:00		MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG XII: KANSAS @ TEXAS	10TH ANNUAL SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00				NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30	TOTALLY NASCAR			JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	BIOGRAPHY : - DOROTHY DANDRIDGE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - MWC: WYOMING @ UNLV	HEADLINE NEWS	INTRODUCING DOROTHY DANDRIDGE		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET		ARTHUR : - HIDE AND SNAKE/ MUFFY'S NEW BEST FRIEND	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				DISNEY'S DOUG : - DOUG'S MIDNIGHT KISS		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	DRAGON TALES : - ON THIN ICE/ THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME	CINEMA SECRETS : - WHEN FANTASY BECOMES REALITY	THAT'S SO RAVEN : - YE OLDE DATING GAME	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	THE AMANDA SHOW		10:30
11:00	PBR BULL RIDING - ST. LOUIS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - BRUISED MAN'S CURVE/ POOL'S OUT FOREVER	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - DEAD PUTTING SOCIETY	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30	NBA FASTBREAK		THE COSBY SHOW : - DENISE'S FRIEND	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		10TH ANNUAL SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS	LORD OF THE RINGS:THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
14:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - SUBWAY 400	HEADLINE NEWS			CNN DAYBREAK	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	BIOGRAPHY : - DOROTHY DANDRIDGE		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			INTRODUCING DOROTHY DANDRIDGE			16:00
16:15				HEADLINE NEWS		16:15
16:37				PACIFIC REPORT		16:37
16:45				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:45
17:00		ARTHUR : - HIDE AND SNAKE/ MUFFY'S NEW BEST FRIEND			HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		DISNEY'S DOUG : - DOUG'S MIDNIGHT KISS			CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45				THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	ESPNEWS	THAT'S SO RAVEN : - YE OLDE DATING GAME	CINEMA SECRETS : - WHEN FANTASY BECOMES REALITY		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NBA FASTBREAK	THE AMANDA SHOW	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES			18:30
18:45				ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:45
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - BRUISED MAN'S CURVE/ POOL'S OUT FOREVER			19:00
19:15				GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI		19:15
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			19:30
20:00	TOTALLY NASCAR	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - DEAD PUTTING SOCIETY		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - DENISE'S FRIEND			20:30
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	LORD OF THE RINGS:THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING	10TH ANNUAL SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:30				BATMAN: BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM		21:30
22:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - MWC: AIR FORCE @ BYU				FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00			BIOGRAPHY : - DOROTHY DANDRIDGE	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	CNN'S INSIDE POLITICS	23:30